

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A thin plate supporting container comprising:

a container body for housing therein a plurality of thin plates,
a lid unit for closing the container body,
slotted plates fixed on side walls facing each other in the container body for supporting the thin plates housed therein from opposing sides, and
body positioning means for positioning the whole container body, said body positioning means being fixed on the exterior of a bottom wall of the container body, and including V-shaped groove plate pieces defining V-shaped grooves, for mating with fitting projections for the positioning of the container body, said V-shaped groove plate pieces being located at three positions and respectively oriented in three different directions on the bottom wall of the container body, and supporting stands for holding the V-shaped groove plate pieces by locking means provided between inclination supporting plates and for accurately positioning and supporting the V-shaped groove plate pieces by the inclination supporting plates.

21. (Previously presented) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 20, wherein the V-shaped groove plate pieces are made of a material having low surface frictional resistance.

22. (Previously presented) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 20, wherein the V-shaped groove plate pieces are detachably mounted on the supporting stands.

23. (Currently amended) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 20 wherein:

each of the V-shaped groove plate pieces ~~each~~ comprises a frame and a pair of converging inclined plates having opposing planar surfaces and depending from opposing sides of the frame and extending away from the frame to distal edges defining an opening therebetween ~~for receiving a fitting projection~~; and

the supporting stands each present a plurality of inclined surfaces in contact with and supporting the inclined plates.

24. (Currently amended) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 23 wherein:

the supporting stands include plural stands arranged in parallel on one ~~each~~ side of said opening and plural supporting stands arranged on a second side of said opening, opposite said one side.

25. (Previously presented) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 24 wherein:

each supporting stand is a U-shaped plate.

26. (Previously presented) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 24 wherein:

the supporting stands have notches for receiving the frame.

26. (Currently amended) The thin plate supporting container according to claim 23 wherein:

the locking means ~~each support stand~~ comprises a locking projection; and

the V-shaped groove plate pieces each further comprise a locking pawl, extending from ~~the distal edge of each inclined plate~~, for engaging and locking with the locking projection.